

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: October 22, 2004

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GOV. EASLEY NAMES OUTSTANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS RECIPIENTS

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today named two companies and five individuals as the recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development for 2004.

The N.C. Commission on Workforce Development will recognize the recipients at an awards ceremony, part of North Carolina's 2004 Workforce Development Partnership Conference, **Thursday (10/28) at 6:30 p.m. at the Koury Convention Center's Guilford Ballroom in Greensboro.**

"The perseverance and leadership exemplified by the award recipients is a true testament to the determination of North Carolina's workers and industries," said Gov. Easley. "These companies and individuals are helping our efforts to strengthen our economy by building a highly skilled workforce."

The Governor's Awards honor individuals and businesses for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions in helping the state build a skilled workforce. This year, a new award for a workforce staff member has been added in memory of the late Wayne Daves, who served as deputy director and then executive director of the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development from 1993-2001. Individual winners receive \$500 from private companies and organizations located in their hometowns.

Award recipients are as follows:

Naval Air Depot Cherry Point, Havelock – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.* The Naval Air Depot Cherry Point is North Carolina's largest industrial employer east of I-95 and a world-class provider of depot-level maintenance, engineering and logistics for a broad range of aviation-related systems. The depot employs 4,320 civilian, military and contract workers, and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to the professional development of its employees, including tuition assistance programs. A strong community partner, the depot works with civic and other community groups to provide job fairs and has joined with eight area community colleges to implement the national Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), which provides federal employment opportunities to help students evaluate career options.

Service Thread Manufacturing Company, Laurinburg – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.* This leading manufacturer's philosophy is focused on continuous improvement in its manufacturing processes and equipment, and developing quality, long-term customer relationships through superior service. Service Thread Manufacturing uses the N.C. Department of Commerce's local JobLink office for job postings and referrals. It participates in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program, which provides training and employment assistance to prepare individuals to enter or re-enter the workforce. It also

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